

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food And Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

7 8 6 9 '99 JUL 12 A10 :49

June 29, 1999

Dear Sirs;

I am writing to comment on the proposed rules for labeling irradiated foods, Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food."

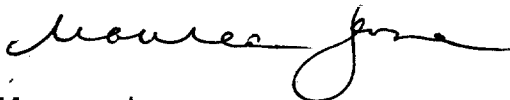
First, as a step-parent, I deserve and want accurate information regarding the foods I eat and prepare for others. Second, as a gourmet and consumer, since irradiation can have an impact on the flavor, texture, storage characteristics of food as well as activity of vitamins and enzymes, I want to know which foods have been treated. And I want to know clearly that they have been treated with radioactive materials. This is my right in a democratic, open society.

1. If you allow irradiated foods, you must respect consumers right to be informed and require that producers label them with the radura symbol of radiation and the words irradiated or irradiation on a label which is as readable as all the other information you require on food labels, i.e. the same size type and prominent on the label. Call it what it is, do not substitute such terms as cold pasteurization or electronic pasteurization. These terms are misleading.
2. This required labeling with the radura and word "irradiated" should be a permanent rule with no "sunset" date. I will want to know throughout my life which foods are treated with irradiation.
3. Any component part of a food which is irradiated must be labeled as such.

Please require the open labeling of irradiated foods and food components in perpetuity.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



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